

## Family Planning

The teenage pregnancy rate continues to decline in the County, the region, the rest of New York State, and the country. The CDC attributes this decline to several possible factors that could reasonably be applied to this County. One is that current educational efforts have focused on the importance of pregnancy prevention through abstinence and responsible behavior. The adoption of new easier to use effective birth control methods by sexually active teenagers is another factor. Also, economic opportunity may have given teenagers a reason to place a greater focus on higher education and work.<sup>6</sup>

Trends in the three components of pregnancy rates — live births, induced abortions and fetal losses — have declined in the country since 1990. The generally downward trend in live births (fertility rate) reflects generally stable or declining birth rates for women in all age groups under 30 years. The only age groups for which birth rates have consistently increased are women aged 30 years and over.

### Data Analysis

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#### Birth Rate, ages 15–44

• Rate of births per 1,000 females age 15–44, 2000–2002.

<b>Tompkins.....</b>	<b>31.1</b>
Cayuga .....	54.7
Cortland .....	47.8
Tioga.....	57.4
CNY .....	54.0
NYS .....	60.4

• Percent of female population who are age 18–24, 2002 estimate.

<b>Tompkins.....</b>	<b>25.2</b>
Cayuga .....	9.0
Cortland .....	17.3
Tioga.....	7.8
NYS (ex. NYC).....	9.0

Among counties, the birth rate for Tompkins County is the lowest in the state. It is nearly half that of New York State, 42 percent of the rate for Central New York<sup>7</sup>, and 22 percent below the county with the next-to-lowest rate. The birth rate is calculated as the number of births per 1,000 females age 15–44 years. (*see Figure 59, page 88.*)

Tompkins County's high student population is the most likely cause of the low birth rate. One-in-four of the women in Tompkins County are age 18–24 years. In Cortland County, about one-in-six women are in this age group. Upstate the number is less than one-in-ten. (*See Figure 61, page 89.*)

It is fair to postulate that a high number of the Tompkins women in this age group are students, that these students are not having babies, and that they will leave Tompkins County before they do settle down to have a family.

This postulate is supported by Tompkins demographic data that separates the college students from the general population. These data are in the U.S. Census Bureau's Special Tabulation #137 for the 2000 census.<sup>8</sup> Although this tabulation does not break out narrow age or gen-

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<sup>6</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Vital Statistics Reports, Vol.47, No.29, December 15, 1999.

<sup>7</sup> NYSDOH statistical regions close to Tompkins County are as follows (counties bordering Tompkins are in bold):  
*Region 3 (Central New York):* **Cayuga, Cortland**, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga, Oswego, St. Lawrence, **Tompkins**

*Region 4 (New York-Penn):* Broome, Chenango, **Tioga**

*Region 2 (Finger Lakes):* **Chemung**, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, **Schuyler, Seneca**, Steuben, Wayne, Yates

<sup>8</sup> In 2003, the Tompkins County Planning Department requested and received a Special Tabulation from the U.S. Bureau of the Census. This Special Tabulation (#137) provided separate sets of the 2000 Census data for "college stu-

der segments, it does show that 38 percent of Tompkins residents under age 21 are college students, and 27 percent of those age 21–64 years are college students.

#### Birth Rate, ages 18–19

• Rate of births per 1,000 females age 18–19, 2000–2002.

<b>Tompkins .....</b>	<b>8.8</b>
Cayuga .....	55.4
Cortland .....	28
Tioga .....	68.7
CNY .....	43.6
NYS .....	53.0

Finally, the birth rate for Tompkins County women age 18–19 years is less than one-third that of Cortland County, one-fifth that of CNY, and one-sixth that of the state as a whole. (*See Figure 65, page 91.*)

In summary, piecing together an high percentage of women in the age 18–24 group, a high percentage of college students in the under age 21 years group, and a very low birth rate for age 18–19 women provides a plausible explanation that Tompkins County's very low birth rate is a result of the high college student population.

Similar to trends elsewhere, Tompkins County's overall birth rate for women age 15–44 years is falling. In the 10 year period from 1993–2002, the rate fell over 9 points, or almost 25 percent. Most of that decline came from 1993–1998, with the rate essentially level since then. The Upstate NY birth rate has dropped about 5 points, or 8 percent over the same 10 year period. (*See Figure 60, page 88.*)

#### Teenage Births, age 15–17 years

• Rate per 1,000 females age 15–17, 2000–2002

<b>Tompkins .....</b>	<b>8.7</b>
Cortland .....	14.2
CNY .....	17.8

Tompkins County's birth rate among teens age 18–19 — cited earlier — is the lowest in the state. The birth rate for girls age 15–17 years is also among the lowest in the state. And, as a percentage of all births, live births to girls age 15–17 has shown a downward trend. (*See Figure 62, page 90, and Figure 64, page 91.*)

As a percentage of live births, out-of-wedlock births are also low in Tompkins County; about 28 percent less than the rate for the Central New York region. (*See Figure 66, page 92.*)

#### Births to women age 30–44 years

• Percent of all live births, 2000–2002.

<b>Tompkins .....</b>	<b>47.1</b>
Cayuga .....	38.1
Cortland .....	33.7
Tioga .....	36.4
CNY .....	38.4
NYS .....	46.5

The trend in births to women age 30–44 years has increased slightly in Tompkins County over the ten year period 1993–2002, while in neighboring Cortland County the increase has been more pronounced (up 9.5 percent in Tompkins and 15 percent in Cortland County. *See Figure 68, page 93.*) Still, *Figure 68* and *Figure 67* (*page 92*) show that the rate of births to women age 30–44 is quite a bit higher in Tompkins County than in nearby counties or the CNY region as a whole. In fact, this rate is higher in Tompkins than all other Upstate counties west of Albany, Saratoga and the Hudson Valley.

#### Pregnancy Rate

• Rate per 1,000 females

Continuing its streak of extremes in the family planning category, Tompkins County has the state's lowest pregnancy rate; a rate 15 per-

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dents" and "non-college students" for Tompkins County (by municipality). "College student" was defined as those answering "yes" to question 8a of the Census 2000 "long" form questionnaire ("at any time since February 1, 2000, has this person attended regular school or college?" — for ages 17+ years.)

age 15–44 years, 2000–2002.

<b>Tompkins.....</b>	<b>44.1</b>
Cayuga .....	65.8
Cortland .....	60.3
Tioga.....	68.0
CNY .....	66.7
NYS .....	90.3

#### Abortions

• Rate per 1,000 live births, 2000–2002.

<b>Tompkins.....</b>	<b>415</b>
Cayuga .....	198
Cortland .....	251
Tioga.....	183
CNY .....	226
NYS .....	486

#### Teen Pregnancies

• Rate per 1,000 females age 15–17 years, 2000–2002.

<b>Tompkins.....</b>	<b>21.5</b>
Cayuga .....	25.9
Cortland .....	21.6
Tioga.....	24.8
CNY .....	29.1
NYS .....	41.2
<b>HP2010.....</b>	<b>43.0</b>

cent below the next higher Otsego County (Cooperstown,) 34 percent lower than the CNY region, and less than half of the state as a whole. (See Figure 69, page 93.)

The trend for pregnancies has been a steady decline in Tompkins County — about 30 percent from 1993–2002. Upstate has seen an 11 percent decrease over that 10-year period. (See Figure 70, page 94.)

Opposite the pregnancy rate, Tompkins County has the second highest rate of induced abortions statewide, exclusive of New York City. Outside NYC, Erie County (Buffalo) has the highest rate — about 4 percent above Tompkins, while the abortion rate for the five boroughs is 76 percent above Tompkins. The abortion rate is calculated as a ratio of induced abortions to live births.

After peaking in the mid-1990's, Tompkins County's abortion rate has trended toward a decline. Since the abortion rate is tied to the number of births, a downward trend in both birth and abortion rates presumes an overall decline in the number of abortions in Tompkins County.

The pregnancy rate among teenage girls age 15–17 years is low in Tompkins County, though comparisons with other regions are not as extreme as for some of the statistics described earlier. However, the downward trend for pregnancies among Tompkins' 15–17 year olds is dramatic, dropping by nearly half from a high in 1995 to 2002. For all of Upstate the rate fell 38 percent from 1993–2002.

In every Upstate county, the current rate of pregnancies among girls age 15–17 is comfortably below the Healthy People 2010 (HP2010) target rate of 43.0. (See Figure 75, page 96, and Figure 75, page 96.)

## Community Resources

### Tompkins County Health Department

Tompkins County Health Department community health nurses discuss family planning practices with Medicaid Obstetrics and Maternal Services (MOMS) clients and provides education on the topic at childbirth education classes and post-natal visits.

### Planned Parenthood of the Southern Finger Lakes

Planned Parenthood of the Southern Finger Lakes (PPSFL) provides sexuality education programs for the community and in-service training for professionals. Programs may be arranged for schools, community groups, faith communities, youth services agencies, families and parents.

Mothers and Babies perinatal network of the Southern Tier pro-

**The Teen Pregnancy  
/Parenting Program**

vides some of the same services as PPSFL.

The Teen Pregnancy/Parenting Program is a voluntary program of the Day Care and Child Development Council. It provides case management to pregnant and/or parenting teens under the age of 21 in Tompkins County. TP3 provides information on all pregnancy choices and supports teens in their decisions. Among the varied services it provides, TP3 maintains a teen parent panel, which speaks out on the hardships of being a parent at a young age.

## Figures and Tables

Figure 59 — Birth rate, age 15–44, regional comparison

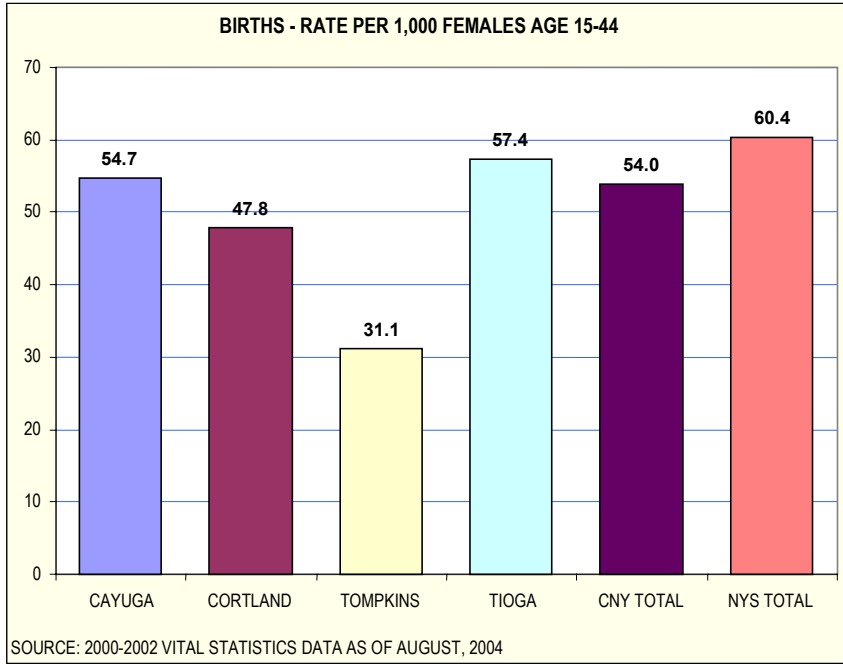


Figure 60 — Birth rate, age 15–44, 10-year trend

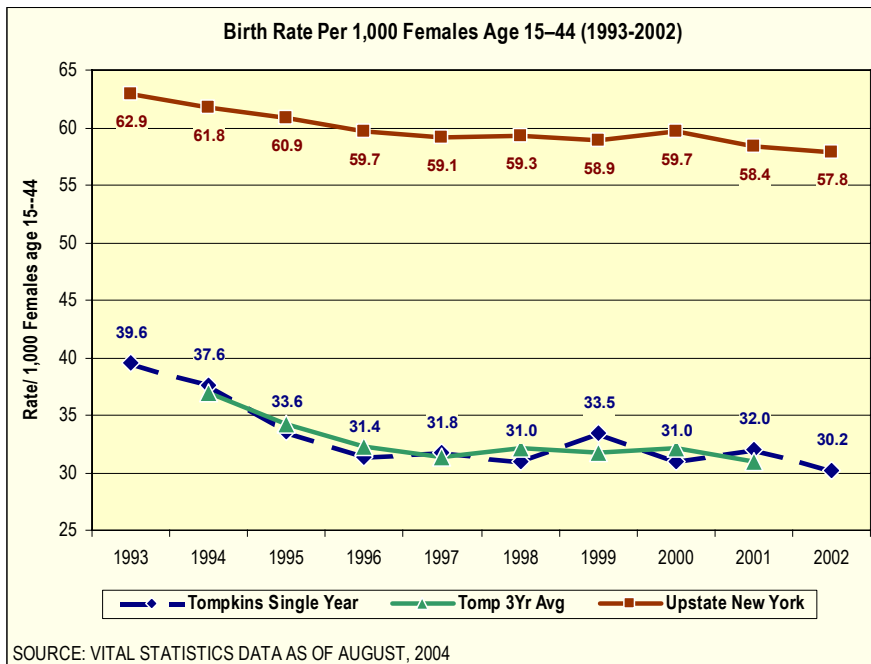


Figure 61 — Female population by age, regional comparison

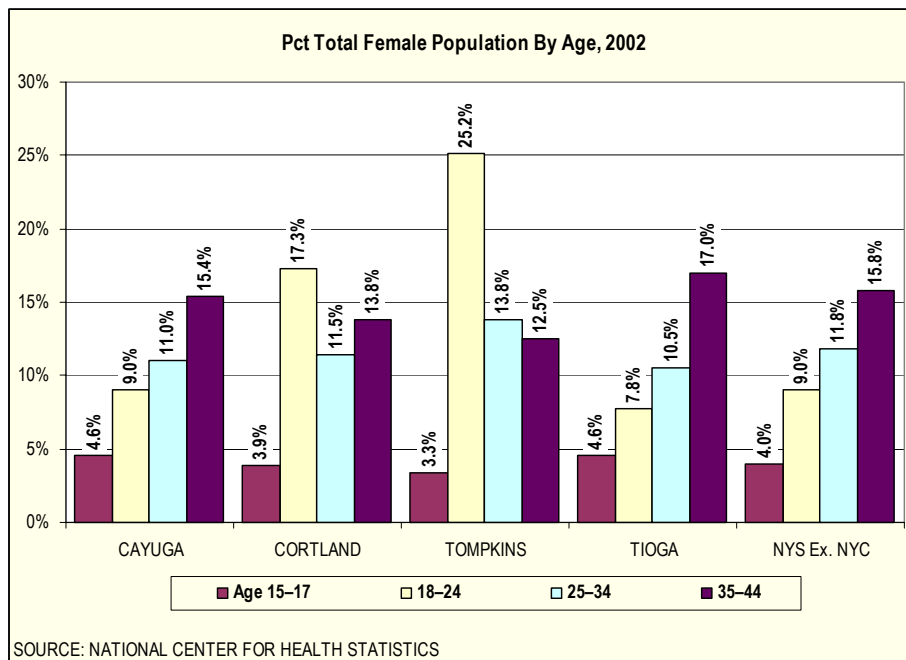


Table 9 — Tompkins County population by gender, age, student status

**Tompkins County Population Characteristics**

Source: U.S. Census 2000, Sp. Tab #137	All residents		Excluding college students		<b>Pct All Res that are College Students</b>
	96,501		69,295		
<b>Sex</b>					
Male	47,667	49%	NA		
Female	48,834	51%	NA		
<b>Age</b>					
Under 21	32,036	33%	19,975	29%	38%
21 – 64	55,208	57%	40,140	58%	27%
65 or older	9,257	10%	9,180	13%	1%

Figure 62 — Teenage births, age 15–17, rate per female pop. age 15–17, regional comparison

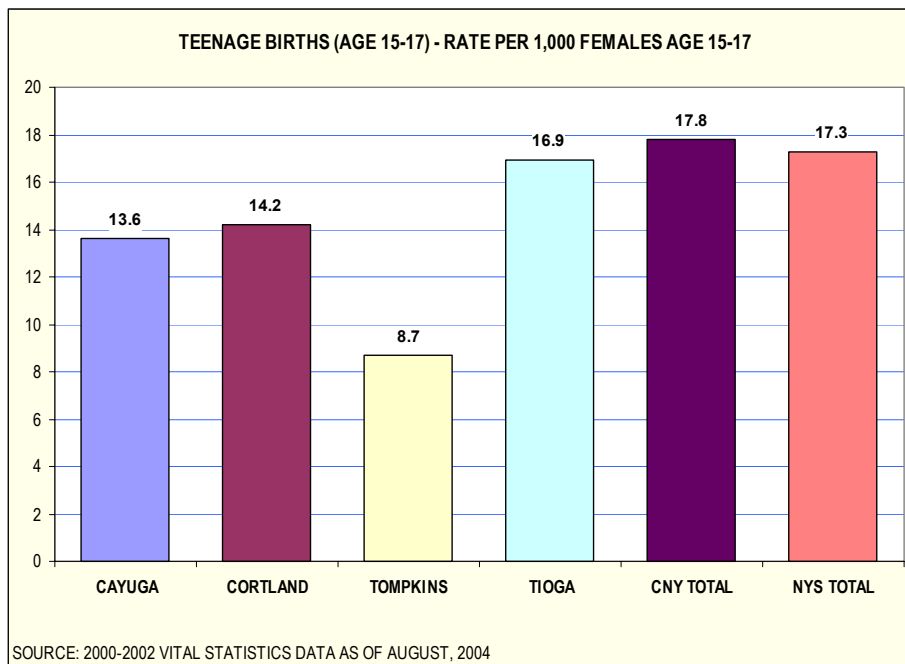


Figure 63 — Teenage births, age 15–17, rate per live births, regional comparison

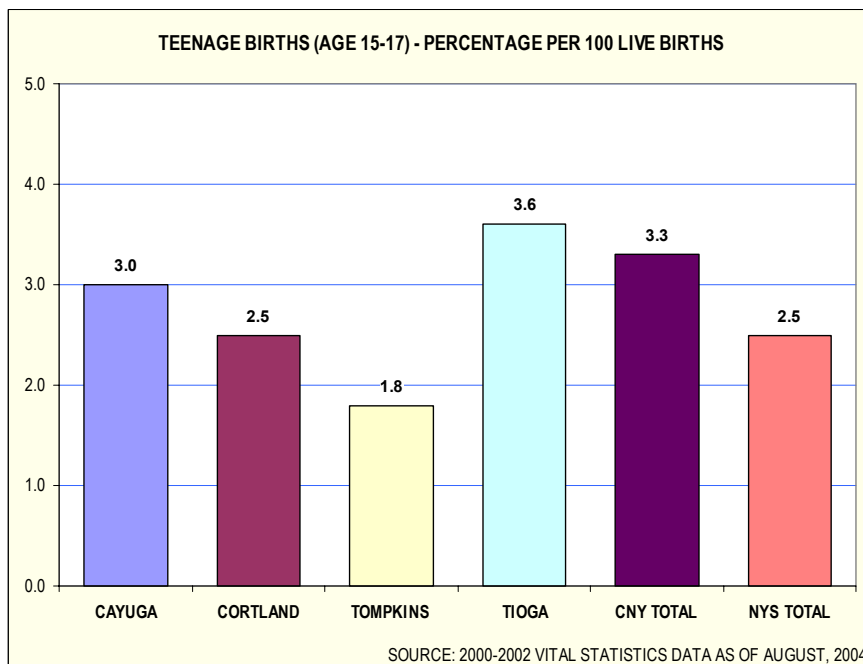


Figure 64 — Teenage births, age 15–17, rate per live births, 10-year trend

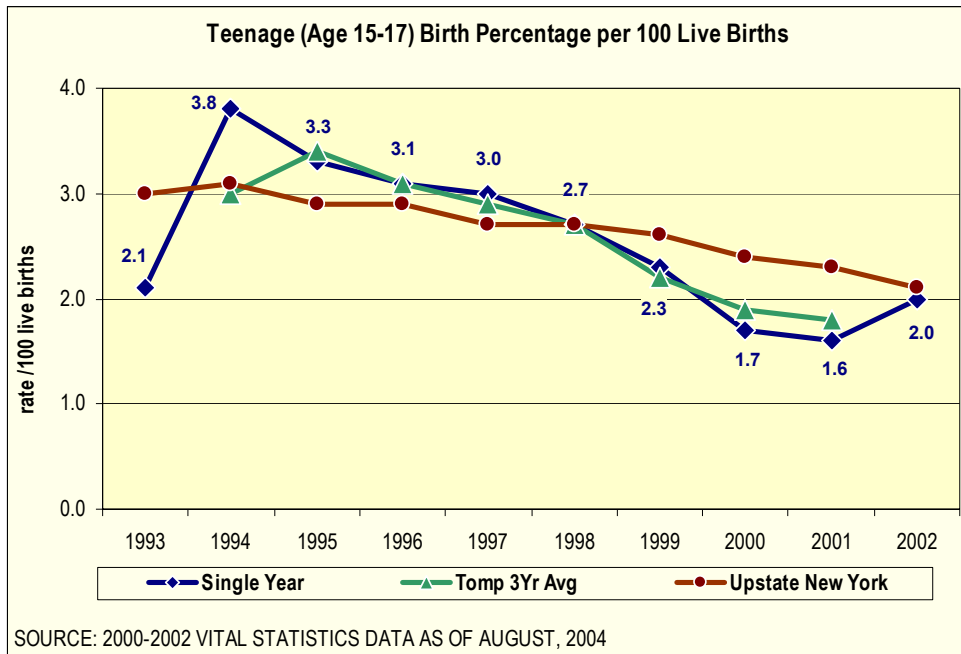


Figure 65 — Teenage births, age 18–19, rate per female pop. age 18–19, regional comparison

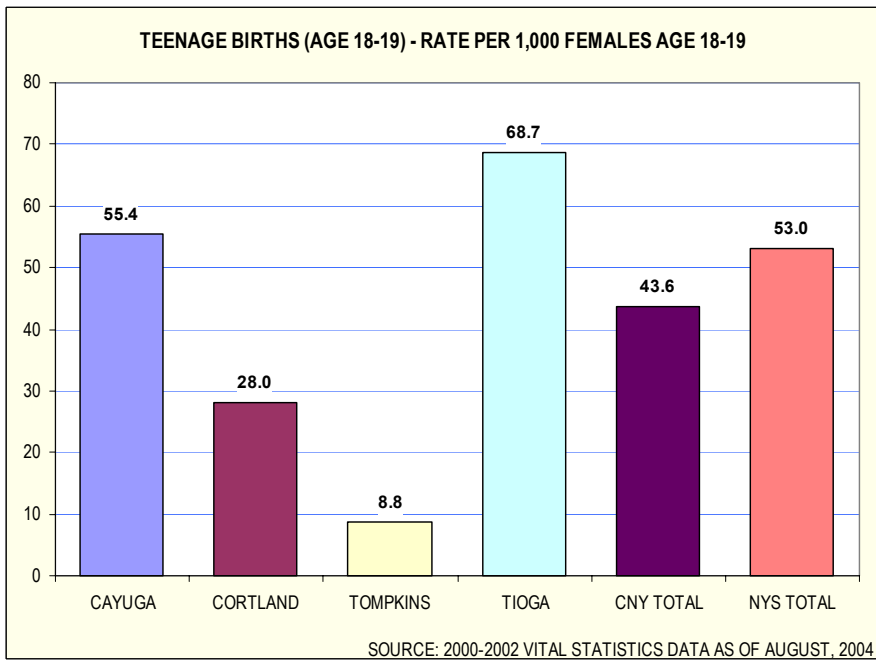




Figure 66 — Out-of-Wedlock births, regional comparison

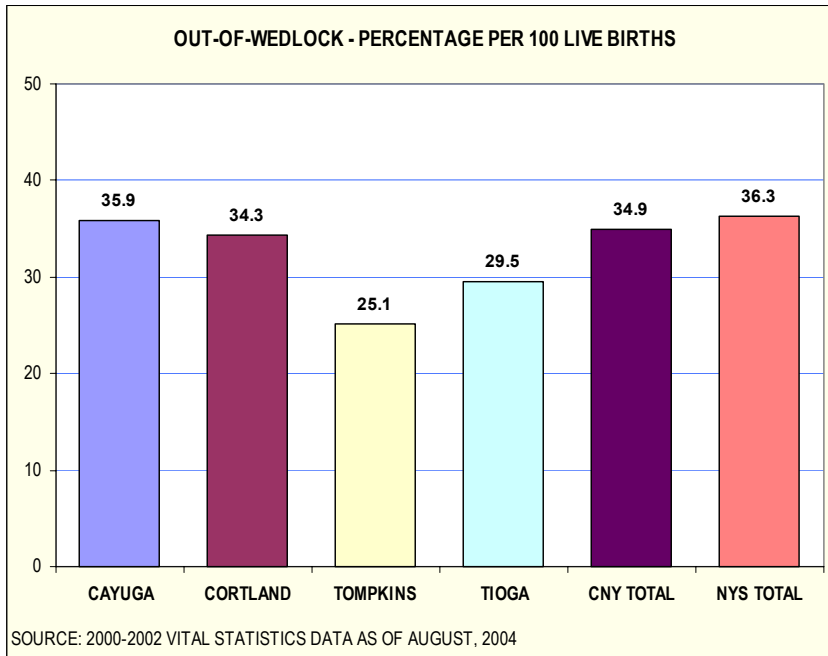


Figure 67 — Births to mothers age 30–44, regional comparison

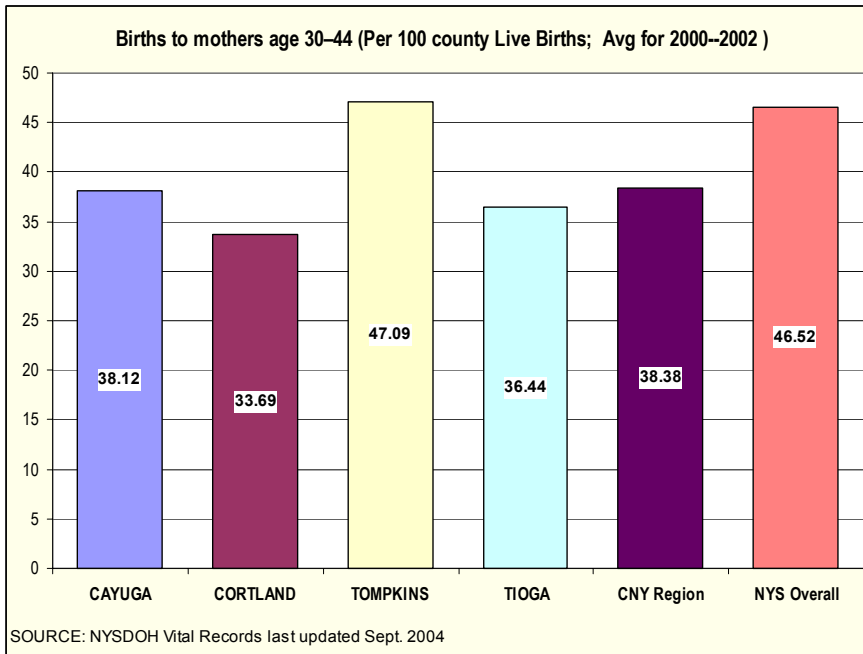


Figure 68 — Births to mothers age 30–44, 10-year trend

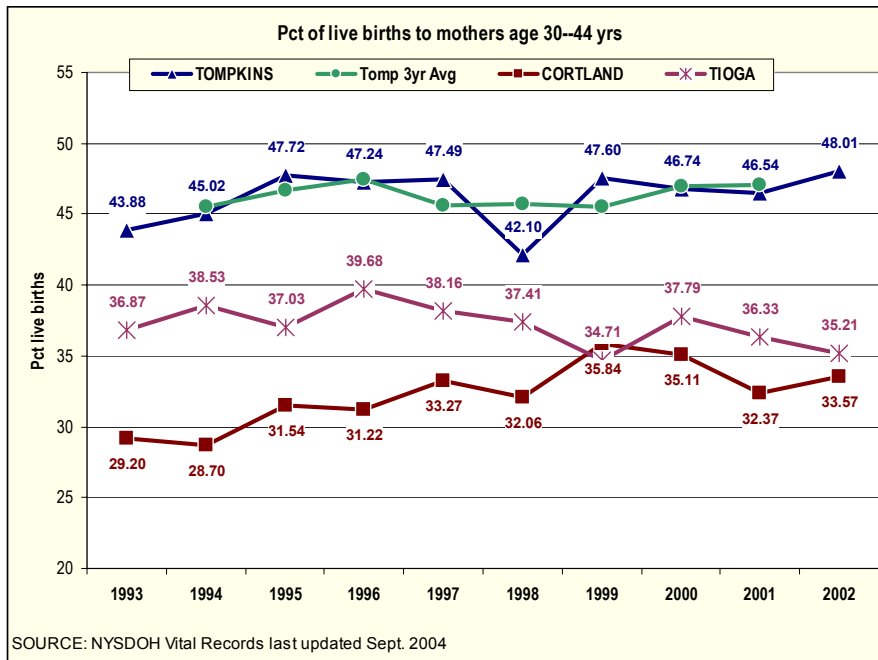


Figure 69 — Pregnancies, regional comparison

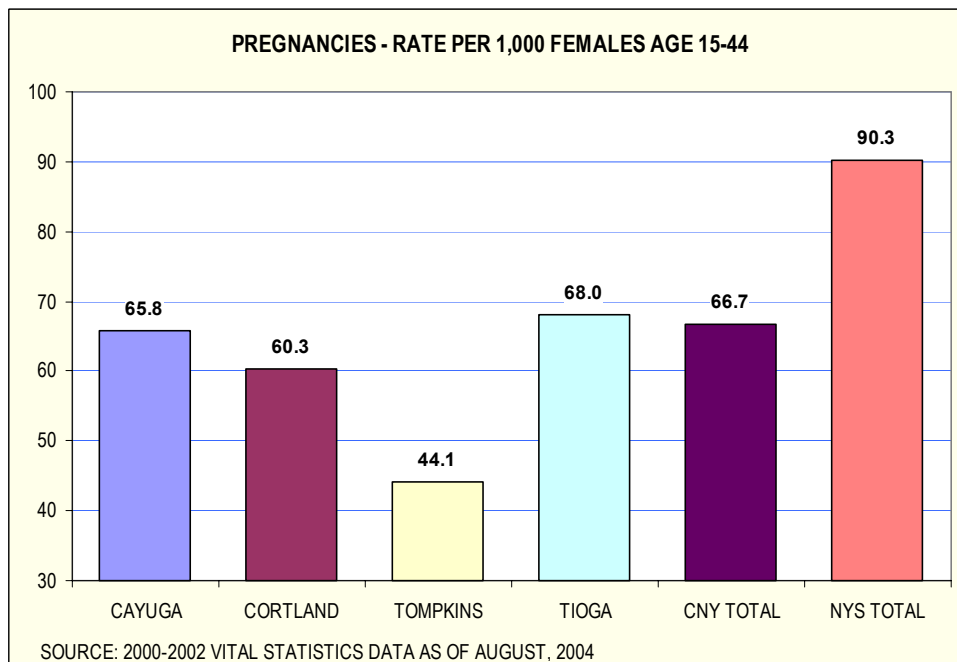


Figure 70 — Pregnancies, 10-year trend

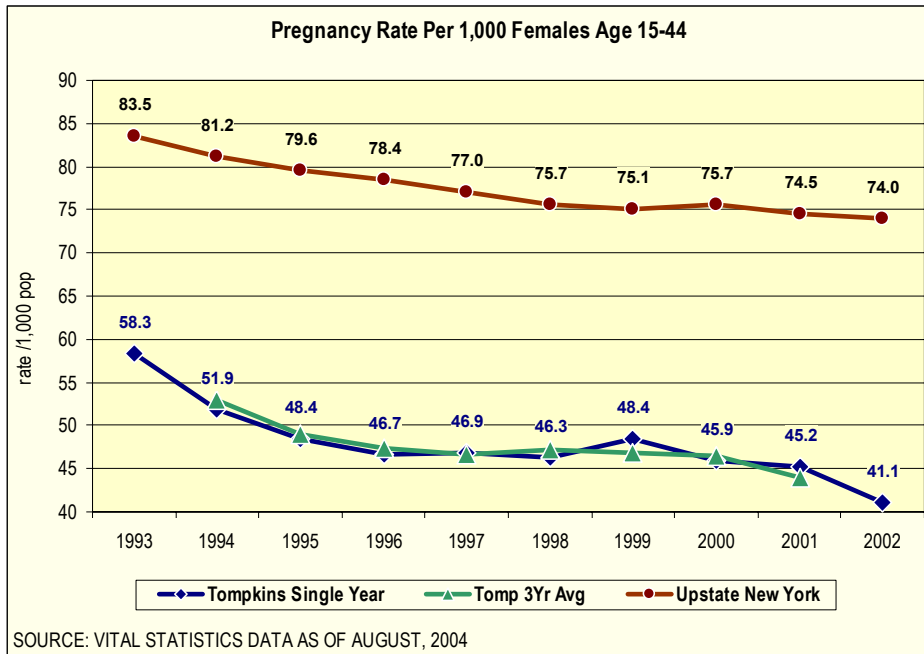


Figure 71 — Induced abortions, regional comparison

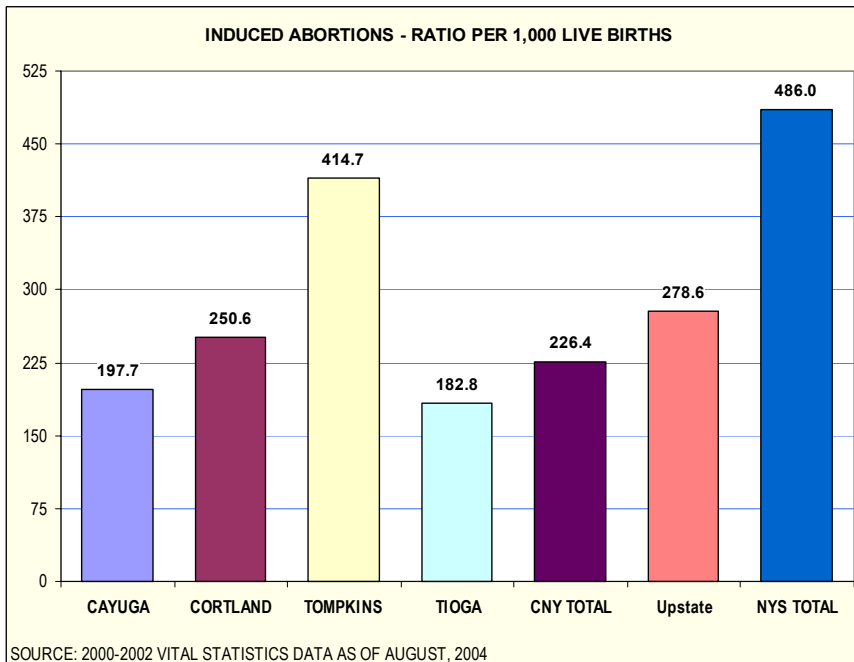


Figure 72 — Abortions, 10-year trend

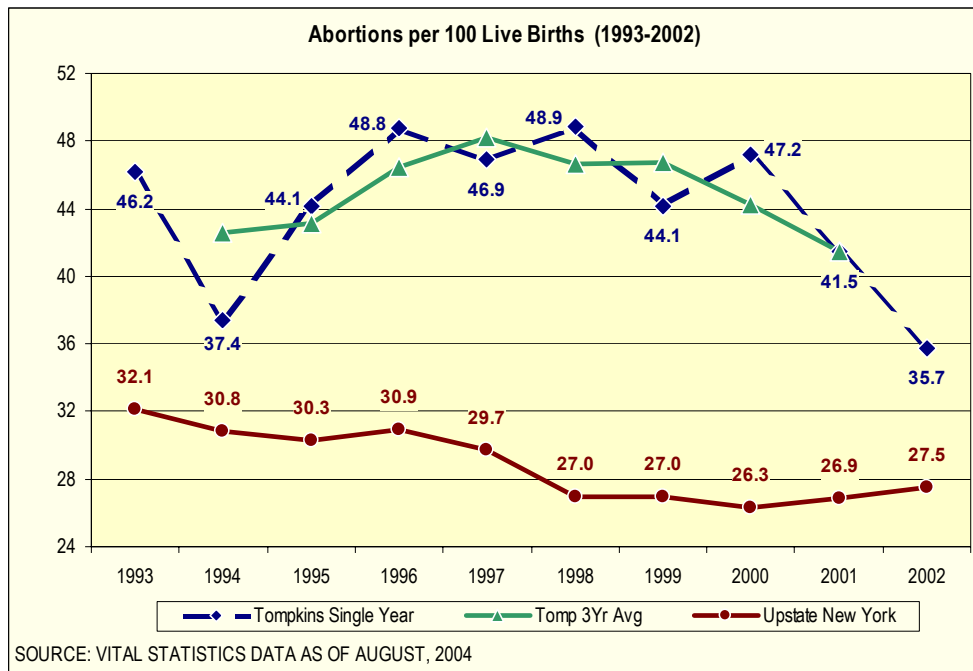


Figure 73 — Teenage pregnancies, age 15–19, regional comparison

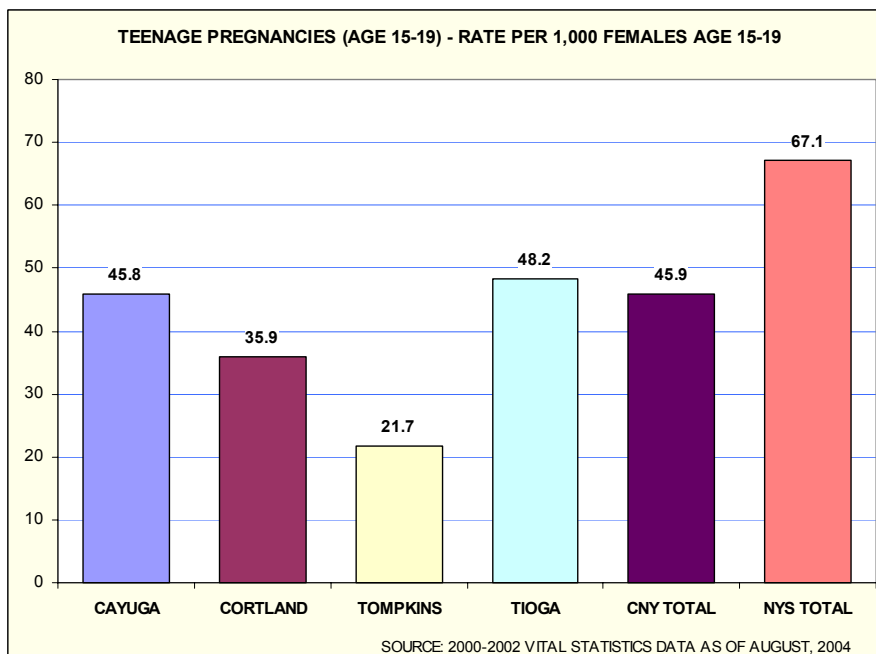


Figure 74 — Teenage pregnancies, age 15–17, regional comparison

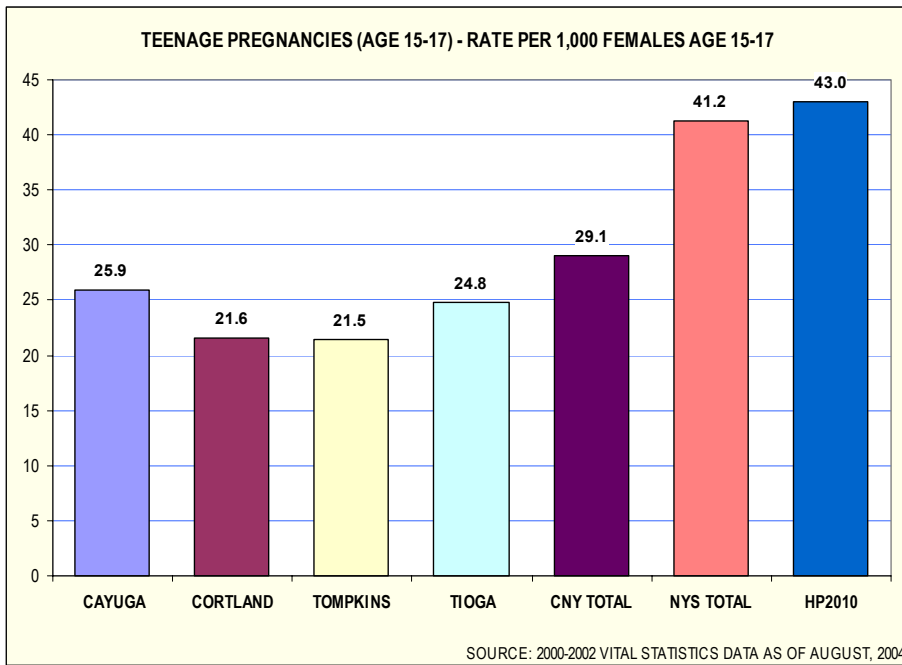


Figure 75 — Teenage pregnancies, age 15–17, 10-year trend

